

REMARKS

Claims 1, 4-13 and 60-87 were pending in the application as of the Office Action dated April 13, 2004. Claims 1, 6 and 13 are amended, claims 5 and 7 are canceled and new claims 88-97 are added herein. Accordingly, claims 1, 4, 6, 8-13, 60-87, and 88-97 are now pending. Claims 60-87 were previously allowed. In the Office Action dated April 13, 2004, the Examiner rejected previously presented claims 1, 4, 7, 10, 12 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Nagahara et al. Claims 8 and 9 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nagahara et al. in view of Roberts et al. Claims 5, 6 and 11 were objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Applicant thanks Examiner Grant for indicating allowing subject matter in the claims that were objected to in the Office Action. The present amendment to the claims conforms to the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter. More specifically, base claim 1 has been amended to recite all the elements of claim 5 with the limitations of base claim 1. Former claim 5 is canceled. Claim 7 is canceled because it would not properly depend from amended claim 1. Claim 6, which formerly dependent from claim 5, has been amended to depend from amended claim 1. Claim 13 has been amended to cancel subject matter that is redundant with the elements of amended claim 1.

New base claim 88 recites the limitations of former base claim 1 in combination with the limitations of former base claim 11. The remaining dependent claims recite the same elements as previously presented dependent claims 4-10, 12 and 13, each of which have been repeated in new claims 89-97 to properly depend from new base claim 88, which was deemed allowable by the Examiner.

Accordingly, all of the claims remaining in the application are now clearly allowable. Favorable consideration and a Notice of Allowance are earnestly solicited. If any informalities remain, the Examiner Grant is urged to contact the undersigned attorney by

telephone prior to the 6 month expiration date of October 13, 2004 to address such informalities as may be addressed by examiners amendment or teleconference.

Respectfully submitted,
DORSEY & WHITNEY LLP

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mark W. Roberts', written in a cursive style.

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MWR:clr

Enclosures:

Postcard
Check
Fee Transmittal Sheet (+ copy)
Request for Continued Examination (+copy)

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